

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DHA-02
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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3334
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 02587

FOR EUR/RPM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : NATO PFOR, CSCS, UK, US
SUBJECT : CSCW: UK COMMENTS ON US PROPOSALS

REF; STATE 038563

THE UK DELEGATION HAS PROVIDED US WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE FOUR US SUGGESTIONS FOR POSSIBLE NEW CSCE PROPOSALS FOR BELGRADE (REFTEL):
BEGIN TEXT:
BOOK AND RECORD SHOPS

1. WE AGREE WITH THE SENSE OF THE US PROPOSAL. ITS ACCEPTANCE WOULD BE A STEP FORWARD IN ITSELF AND IN PARTICULAR COULD HELP TO SMOOTH THE WAY FOR A BRITISH BOOKSHOP IN MOSCOW WHICH OUR CULTURAL ATTACHE HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH FOR SOME TIME.

2. IF THE AMERICANS WISH TO PURSUE THIS ONE THEY MAY FIND IT WORTH DISCUSSING WITH THE FRENCH, WHO WERE MOST CONCERNED WITH THIS PROPOSAL AT GENEVA. IT WAS LAST
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RAISED BY THEM BEFORE PRESIDENT GISCARD'S VISIT TO MOSCOW IN OCTOBER 1975 AND WAS IMMEDIATELY DECLARED IMPOSSIBLE BY THE RUSSIANS. WE SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT THE POLES HAVE BEEN TRYING EVER SINCE 1956 TO PERSUADE THE RUSSIANS TO LET THEM OPEN A POLISH CULTURAL CENTRE IN MOSCOW. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE WEST CAN SUCCEED WHERE THEY AND OTHER EAST EUROPEANS HAVE FAILED, DE-

SPITE THE FACT THAT THEY ALL HAVE SOVIET CULTURAL CENTRES
IN THEIR CAPITALS.

3. IN ANY CASE WE DOUBT WHETHER THE EAST WILL EVEN LOOK
AT ANY PROPOSAL FOR PRIVATE FOREIGN FIRMS AND ORGANIZA-
TIONS TO OFFER MATERIAL DIRECTLY TO THE PUBLIC AND WE
WOULD PREFER THIS IDEA TO BE DROPPED OR AT LEAST REDRAFT-
ED TO MAKE IT MORE APPETISING.

4. WE ASSUME THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER EASTERN COUN-
TRIES ARE CONTENT WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION WHERE THEIR
BOOKS ARE ON SALE IN A NUMBER OF BOOKSHOPS IN THE UK.
ELIMINATION OF CURRENCY CONVERSION REQUIREMENTS

1. THIS IS POTENTIALLY PROMISING, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT
WAS NOT RAISED BY THE WEST IN GENEVA AND CANNOT BE TURN-
ED BACK AGAINST US (ALTHOUGH WE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT
WE OURSELVES SOMETIMES REQUIRE EVIDENCE THAT POTENTIAL
VISITORS HAVE A MINIMUM OF CURRENCY BEFORE GIVING THEM
VISAS).

2. EASTERN OBJECTIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE PRIMARILY ECO-
NOMIC, SINCE THEY PERSIST IN BELIEVING THAT HIGH MINIMUM
CURRENCY CONVERSION REQUIREMENTS ARE THE BEST WAYS OF
MAXIMISING THEIR FOREIGN CURRENCY EARNINGS FROM TOURISTS
AND BUSINESS VISITORS. HOWEVER, THERE IS ALSO A POLITI-
CAL ELEMENT SINCE THE TOTAL ABOLITION OF THIS REQUIREMENT
WOULD BE LIKELY TO LEAD IN PRACTICE TO WESTERN VISITORS
RELYING ENTIRELY ON THE BLACK MARKET AS WELL AS DIRECT-
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ING ALL OR MOST FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS FROM TOURISM
TO PRIVATE RATHER THAN STATE HANDS.

3. WE SHOULD THEREFORE NOT AIM FOR TOTAL ABO-
LITION, WHICH WILL BE QUITE UNACCEPTABLE, BUT RATHER FOR
THE FOLLOWING:-

(A) INCREASE IN THE CATEGORIES OF VISITORS WHO ARE EX-
EMPT FROM THIS REQUIREMENT (E. G. FULL TIME STUDENTS).

(B) REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT REQUIRED TO BE CHANGED.

(C) BRINGING THE OFFICIAL RATE DOWN TO A MORE "REALISTIC"
LEVEL. THIS IS HOWEVER MORE DIFFICULT POLITICALLY TO
PUSH, SINCE THE ONLY BASIS FOR COMPARISON IS LIKELY TO
BE THE BLACK MARKET RATE.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION WE SHOULD ALSO BEAR IN MIND THE
BASKET II PROVISION ON BUSINESS CONTACTS AND FACILITIES
WHICH READS:

"WILL FURTHER TAKE MEASURES...PARTICULARLY AS FOLLOWS:-
BY ENCOURAGING THE PROVISION, ON CONDITIONS AS FAVOUR-
ABLE AS POSSIBLE AND EQUAL FOR ALL REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE ABOVE-MENTIONED BODIES, OF HOTEL ACCOMMODATION,
MEANS OF COMMUNICATION, AND OF OTHER FACILITIES NORMALLY
REQUIRED BY THEM, AS WELL AS OF SUITABLE BUSINESS AND
RESIDENTIAL PREMISES FOR PURPOSES OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATION."

5. THIS WAS DESIGNED BY ITS WESTERN SPONSORS TO MEAN
THAT THE EASTERN COUNTRIES WOULD NOT GIVE EACH OTHER'S
NATIONALS PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN THIS MATTER. THEY
STILL DO, AND THIS IS A POINT ON WHICH WE CAN
LEGITIMATELY COMPLAIN. HOWEVER, IT IS OF COURSE LIMITED

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 NATO 02587

TO BUSINESS VISITORS ONLY.

RIGHTS OF APPLICANTS FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION
AND MARRIAGE

1. THE IDEA OF GUARANTEES AGAINST DISCRIMINATION WAS RAISED IN A NUMBER OF WESTERN PAPERS AT GENEVA. THE BEST HOWEVER THE WEST COULD OBTAIN WAS THE REFERENCE CITED IN THE US PAPER, ITSELF ONLY OBTAINABLE BY THE WEST AGREEING TO INSERT "OBLIGATIONS" TO BALANCE "RIGHTS".

2. IT WOULD BE VALUABLE IF A PROPOSAL TO THIS SORT COULD BE ADOPTED, BUT THE CHANCES ARE PROBABLY SMALL. WE CONSIDER THAT FURTHER REFLECTION ON THIS POINT WILL BE NECESSARY.

EXCHANGE OF LIVE TV BROADCASTS

1. IN GENERAL WE WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF THIS PROPOSAL, WHICH IS ON THE LINES OF A BRITISH PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO COMMITTEE-THREE IN GENEVA ON 11 DECEMBER 1973.

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2. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO STRESS THE INTERNATIONAL (AND IF POSSIBLE MULTILATERAL) CHARACTER OF SUCH EXCHANGES, WE WOULD FAVOR AMENDING THE FIRST PROVISION TO READ SOMETHING LIKE:

"FACILITATE REGULARLY SCHEDULED PERIODIC EXCHANGES OF LIVE BROADCASTS AMONG THEM, PARTICULARLY BETWEEN SUBJECTS OF TWO OR MORE MEMBER STATES, EITHER ON A BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL BASIS".

3. AT GENEVA MANY OF OUR ALLIES WERE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC, AND THE RUSSIANS REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE IDEA IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM UNLESS WESTERN STATES WERE PREPARED TO ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTENT OF SUCH BROADCASTS, OR THEY WERE ALLOWED THE RIGHT OF CENSORSHIP.

4. THE IDEA OF LINKED TELEVISION DISCUSSION PROGRAMMES HAS ALWAYS BEEN REGARDED FAVORABLY BY THE FCO. WE HAD HOWEVER TO WORK VERY HARD IN 1973 TO OVERCOME THE RELUCTANCE OF THE BBC AND IBA AND WOULD NEED AGAIN TO SEEK THEIR AGREEMENT SHOULD IT BE DECIDED TO PURSUE THE US PROPOSALS.

5. THE GENERAL LINES OF THE REACTION OF THE BBC AND IBA IN 1973 WAS THAT THEY FORESAW NO GREAT DIFFICULTY IN ACCEPTING LINKED TELEVISION PROGRAMMES PROVIDED CERTAIN BASIC RULES WERE OBSERVED. THEY WERE HOWEVER MORE IN FAVOR OF PRACTICAL AND SIMULTANEOUS TRANSMISSION WHEREVER POSSIBLE AS THEY HAD MISGIVINGS ABOUT ANY PROMISE

THE RUSSIANS AND EASTERN EUROPEANS MIGHT MAKE TO BROAD-
CAST PROGRAMMES UNCUT AND UNCENSORED. BENNETT

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